



Reuben G. Brown

December 1, 1939 - January 10, 2018

Reuben Brown of Grasonville, MD, formerly of Washington DC, passed away January 10, 2018, at his home. He was 78.

Born on December 1, 1939, in Washington, he was the son of the late Moses and Adelaide Brown. Reuben grew up in Washington and attended McKinley Tech High School.

Reuben was a man of love, kindness, integrity, honor, and humility. He dearly loved his parents, sister, and brother. He was a devoted father to his sons and imparted his values to them in a way that allowed each to incorporate them into his own life. He adored his grandchildren and was most proud of their dedicated and kind spirits. He was a loving father-in law, brother-in law, uncle, and cousin. He was a steadfast and loving husband. He was a dedicated friend and mentor to many.

Reuben had an intense curiosity about the world and everything in it. He read widely and often, he loved to learn, and he loved to pass on his knowledge to others. He rarely met a stranger who he didn't want to converse with, and he had a way of making anyone he encountered feel special. He had a smile that put people at ease, a sparkle in his eye, and a charming sense of humor.

Reuben began playing piano as a young child and was gifted with ability far

beyond his years. He started playing jazz with other local musicians as a teenager and thus began his musical odyssey of over sixty years. He was a prolific composer and lyricist and continued to compose until his last weeks. He earned the respect of jazz musicians and enthusiasts not only because of his musical abilities, but also because he was humble and kind. He played with hundreds of musicians to whom he wished to pay tribute for helping him expand and share his art.

In 1995, Reuben suffered a debilitating stroke that ended his performance career and affected his health for two decades. He and his wife relocated to Grasonville MD, where he found peace in the beauty of nature and open spaces. From the time of his stroke onward, Reuben accepted his limitations with dignity, courage, and grace and continued to do all that he could to live life to its fullest.

Reuben is survived by his wife Jan; his sons, Terence (Shelia), Christian (Shana), Gary (Etoil), and David Augustine (Diana); his grandchildren Jordan, Micah, Daniel, Caleb, Austin, and Macy Brown, and Jenelle, Armand, and Rhigelle Augustine; his sister, Violet; and brother, Moses, Jr. (Adriana); and a multitude of family and friends.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, January 20, 2018, 11AM at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, 500 Marina Club Road, Stevensville, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Compass Regional Hospice (compassregionalhospice.org), or to a charity of choice.

Previous Events

celebration of life

JAN **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chesapeake Bay Beach Club

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Reuben G. Brown*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - January 17, 2018 at 10:58 AM

AB

“ *Im and old friend of rueben from the 1980s , I was a cook at One Step Down jazz club which he and Steve novel played there regularly sorry to hear of his passing, he was really good man not to mention super talented musician. My heart goes out to his entire family . Sincerely Aaron Bray*

Aaron Bray - February 07 at 06:46 PM



“ *Reuben G. Brown*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Reuben G. Brown*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Reuben G. Brown*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

BR

“ REUBEN, WAS A DEAR AND BELOVED FRIEND OF MINE FOR OVER 30 YEARS. I LOVED HIS MUSIC AND I LOVED HIM. HE WILL BE MISSED BY EVERYONE THAT KNEW HIM .HE IS NOW PLAYING PIANO WITH THE ANGELS. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED IN MY HEART AND SOUL. R.I.P BEVERLY RUBIN

BEVERLY RUBIN - December 04, 2019 at 03:21 AM

JB

“ I'm a jazz fan from way back, but Reuben hadn't really been on my radar until one evening years ago when I went to a Mark Murphy concert at the Smithsonian. Mr. Murphy (who died in 2016) devoted the entire second half of his concert to Reuben's compositions, and I thought, "Wow, I need to pay attention to this guy." He was a world-class talent, and, judging by the couple of times I got to speak with him in person, a very nice man.

-- John Bay

John Bay - January 19, 2018 at 10:34 PM

ST

Reuben was a tremendous talent and Amazing person. Glad you were at the concert John Bay as I produced it and it was Mark's idea for the original Reuben songs. It was a great night for sure. Those great nights were missed, but never will be forgotten. Reuben's kind heart and musical genius created magic that will last always. Sandy Trupp

Sandy Trupp - January 20, 2018 at 02:55 PM

JB

“ I met Reuben many years ago at the ONE STEP DOWN and enjoyed his talents on numerous occasions. He was such a kind and gentle spirit with that ever present twinkle in his eyes. I was so sorry to hear of his passing but I'm sure he enjoyed life to the fullest with his beautiful family. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

Julie Blantz - January 19, 2018 at 06:31 PM

ML

“ Mr. & Mrs Rick Lynn purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Reuben G. Brown.



Mr. & Mrs Rick Lynn - January 19, 2018 at 01:47 PM

MW

“ Reuben was a great musician, I am pleased to have been able to photograph him. RIP



Michael Wilderman - January 19, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reuben G. Brown.



January 18, 2018 at 03:10 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray* was purchased for the family of Reuben G. Brown.



January 18, 2018 at 01:25 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray* was purchased for the family of Reuben G. Brown.



January 18, 2018 at 08:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Reuben G. Brown.



January 17, 2018 at 03:24 PM



“ *Kayla & Ann lit a candle in memory of Reuben G. Brown*



Kayla & Ann - January 16, 2018 at 09:08 PM

KA

& Ann

Kayla - January 16, 2018 at 09:10 PM

LC

“ *Too many Wonderful Memories to fit in this space.. Fare Thee Well my long time friend. Lennie Cuje*

lennie cuje - January 16, 2018 at 07:42 PM

SA

“ *Reuben was one of the best jazz pianists ever - we were so lucky to hear him many times at the Bandstand in Baltimore in the 80s. Always enjoyed his solos and talking to him between sets. He told me he always wanted to play string bass. RIP Rueben - your music is still playing in my mind.*

*Steve Alpern
Towson, MD*

Steve Alpern - January 16, 2018 at 01:02 PM

BC

Reuben Brown was a member of the Gary Bartz Quintet which featured Mousie Johnson on trumpet, Roland Wilson on Bass and Hugh Walker on drums in the early 1960s at the North End Lounge on Gay at North Avenue. Everyone was captivated with Reuben's keyboard thunder roll technique.

Bill Coleman - January 17, 2018 at 12:52 AM

MT

“ *Midwest Region Teammates purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Reuben G. Brown.*



Midwest Region Teammates - January 15, 2018 at 02:10 PM

JE

“ *It is with regret I read of Reuben's passing. At this difficult time, may the family be comforted as you mourn the loss of such a caring, talented individual. The words penned at Isaiah 33: 24 will build your confidence in a a better future.*

J. Etienne - January 14, 2018 at 12:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Reuben G. Brown.*



January 14, 2018 at 09:35 AM

PB

“ *I'm so sorry for your lost Janis i didn't know Reuben but if he was married to you he had to be wonderful, Reuben is resting in peace now and you will see him again one day.*

Patricia Ball - January 13, 2018 at 11:02 PM